



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

THE DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM FOR: FIS 2nd Annual Meeting Attendees

FROM: William T. *Bill* Megarth, Ph.D.

SUBJECT: Fisheries Information System Second Annual Meeting

On August 16, the second Fisheries Information System (FIS) national meeting will be held at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center in Seattle, Washington. The purpose of this meeting is to stimulate further development of the national Fisheries Information System program. Although I cannot attend the meeting, I want to express my thanks for all of your hard work during the last year and congratulate you on your accomplishments to date.

I am very pleased to see this important national program has been moving forward. We need to continue to focus on the national FIS requirements laid out in the 1998 Report to Congress, address our growing fisheries data collection needs, and continue to work on consolidating and automating a national participant registration systems. We have made significant progress, but we need more measurable outcomes and end-products that demonstrate our commitment to ecosystem-based management. In a few years, we want to report to Congress that we have succeeded in accomplishing our goals.

Ecosystem-based management of our marine resources relies on the ability to share and integrate information collected or derived by different state and federal agencies. The NOAA Data Quality Act is a driver for ensuring and maximizing the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of information (including statistical information). Whether for regional, national, or international needs, the quality and accessibility of fisheries information influences the certainty and timeliness of our management decisions. An effective national data collection and information management program is critical to accomplishing NOAA's goals and objectives.

NOAA Fisheries is dependent on information. We collect, manage, store and disseminate data in order to manage our marine resources. As I have emphasized before, I strongly encourage all Regions, Science Centers, and partners to aggressively pursue inter-regional collaborations that could provide the technological or methodological advances needed by all partners to improve the integration and accessibility of fisheries databases. We must seize opportunities to capitalize on and leverage our limited data collection, data processing, and information technology resources so that our national needs can be efficiently and effectively addressed.

THE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR
FOR FISHERIES



Your dedication and professionalism can have a significant impact on fisheries information management programs. I congratulate you on your progress to date and urge you to contribute your expertise, ideas, and enthusiasm to make this a very successful national meeting.

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